

Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 7338

USIA FOR IOP/FW (WALTER KOHL) AND IEE

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, MNUC, SP

SUBJECT: NUCLEAR SHIP BRIEFING FOR SPANISH CORESPONDENT

1. INFLUENTIAL "EL PAIS" NEWSPAPER ANTONIONSANCHEZ
GIJON PLANS TO VISIT WASHDC SEPT 30 THROUGH MORNING OF
OCT 2 IN CONNECTION WITH FIRST MEETING OF US SPANISH COUNCIL.
SNACHEZ IS CONSIDERED EXPERT ON NATO AND INTERNATIONAL
SECURITY AFFAIRS. HE IS MEMBER OF SPANISH CORESPONDENTS
GROUP SCHEDULED TO TOUR NATO INSTALLATIONS IN OCTOBER UNDER
USIS MADRID AUSPICES. HE IS BELIEVED TO BE AN OBJECTIVE AND
OPEN MINDED REPORTED OF DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST POLITCAL
ORIENTATION.

2 SANCHEZ SHOWS STRONG INTEREST IN A HIGH LEVEL INTERVIEW
AND BRIEFING ABOUT NAVY NUCLEAR PROPULSION PROGRAM
PURPOSES OF BRIEFING WOULD BE TO (A) EXPLAIN THE SAFETY OF
NUCLEAR POWERED SHIPS AND (B) DESCRIBE THEIR ADVANTAGES AND
IMPORTANCE IN THE CONTEXT OF SECURITY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN.

3. TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION PROVISION CALLING FOR
REMOVAL OF U.S. NUCLEAR POWERED SUBMARINES FROM ROTA IN
1979 IS DESCRIBED BY SPANISH OFFICIALS AS ONE TO "DENUCLEARIZE"
SPAIN AN INDICATOR OF PUBLIC OPINION THEY PERCEIVE.

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IN VIEW OF THE INCREASING NUMBER AND IMPORTANCE OF U.S. NUCLEAR

POWERED SHIPS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN, IT IS IMPORTANT TO TRY TO
CREATE A PUBLIC OPINION CLIMATE WHICH WOULD MAKE IT EASIER FOR
SPANISH GOVT TO REACT FAVORABLY TO ONGOING US EFFORTS TO OBTAIN
SPANISH APPROVAL FOR NPW VISITS.

4. WE THEREFOR HOPE NAVY DEPT CHIEF OF INFORMATION, OFFICE OF
CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS CAN ARRANGES INTERVIEW BRIEFING

5. SANCHEZ CAN BE REACHED IN WASHINGTON THROUGH THE "EL PAIS"
OFFICE IN THE NATONAL PRESS BUILDING BUREAU CHIEF JUAN
GONZALEZ YUSTE.
STABLER

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